

# JOE SATRIANI Surfing With The Alien

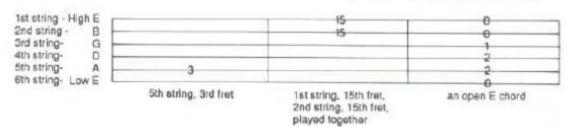
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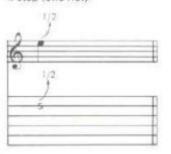
#### TABLATURE EXPLANATION

TABLATURE: A six-line staff that graphically represents the guitar fingerboard, with the top line indicating the highest sounding string (high E). By placing a number on the appropriate line, the string and fret of any note can be indicated. The number 0 represents an open string.



#### **Definitions for Special Guitar Notation**

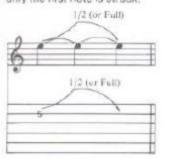
BEND: Strike the note and bend up % step (one fret).



BEND: Strike the note and bend up a whole step (two frets).



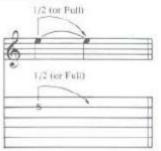
BEND AND RELEASE: Strike the note and bend up % (or whole) step, then release the bend back to the original note. All three notes are tied, only the first note is struck.



PRE-BEND: Bend the note up 1/2 (or whole) step, then strike it.



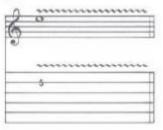
PRE-BEND AND RELEASE: Bend the note up ½ (or whole) step. Strike it and release the bend back to the original note.



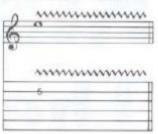
UNISON BEND: Strike the two notes simultaneously and bend the lower note up to the pitch of the higher.



VIBRATO: The string is vibrated by rapidly bending and releasing the note with the left hand or tremolo bar.



WIDE OR EXAGGERATED VIBRATO: The pitch is varied to a greater degree by vibrating with the left hand or tremolo bar.



SLIDE: Strike the first note and then slide the same left-hand finger up or down to the second note. The second note is not struck.



SLIDE: Same as above, except the second note is struck.



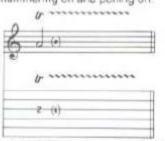
HAMMER-ON: Strike the first (lower) note, then sound the higher note with another finger by fretting it without picking.



PULL-OFF: Place both fingers on the notes to be sounded. Strike the first note and without picking, pull the finger off to sound the second (lower) note.



TRILL: Very rapidly alternate between the note indicated and the small note shown in parentheses by hammering on and pulling off.



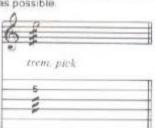
TAPPING: Hammer ("tap") the fret indicated with the right-hand index or middle finger and pull off to the note fretted by the left hand.



PICK SLIDE: The edge of the pick is rubbed down the length of the string producing a scratchy sound.



TREMOLO PICKING: The note is picked as rapidly and continuously as possible.



NATURAL HARMONIC: Strike the note while the left hand lightly touches the string over the fret indicated.



ARTIFICIAL HARMONIC: The note is fretted normally and a harmonic is produced by adding the edge of the thumb or the tip of the index finger of the right hand to the normal pick attack. High volume or distortion will allow for a greater variety of harmonics.



TREMOLO BAR: The pitch of the note or chord is dropped a specified number of steps then returned to the original pitch.



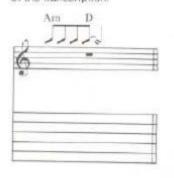
PALM MUTING: The note is partially muted by the right hand lightly touching the string(s) just before the bridge.



MUFFLED STRINGS: A percussive sound is produced by laying the left hand across the strings without depressing them and striking them



RHYTHM SLASHES: Strum chords in rhythm indicated, Use chord voicings found in the fingering diagrams at the top of the first page of the transcription.



RHYTHM SLASHES (SINGLE NOTES): Single notes can be indicated in rhythm slashes. The circled number above the note name indicates which string to play. When successive notes are played on the same string, only the fret numbers are given.



## CONTENTS

- 4 Introduction by Wolf Marshall
- 8 Performance Notes
- 39 Always With Me, Always With You
- 55 Circles
- 29 Crushing Day
- 70 Echo
- 46 Hill Of The Skull
- 23 Ice 9
- 60 Lords Of Karma
- 67 Midnight
- 48 Satch Boogie
- 12 Surfing With The Alien

I have seen the future of rock guitar and his name is Joe Satriani. With one foot suspended in the stratosphere and the other firmly planted in the roots of rock, he is exploring and claiming new territory—conceptually, sonically and aesthetically—bringing instrumental rock to full fruition in the 1987 Relativity Records release, Surfing with the Alien (Relativity 88561-8193-2)—selected by GPM readers as the Guitar Album of the Year.

While it's too early to tell if Joe is to be the Les Paul or the Duane Eddy of the 90's, there is no doubt that he is boldly reshaping guitar music as we know it today, and at the same time defying gravity on the record charts with a purely instrumental and musically adventurous offering. Personifying the "passing of the torch" tradition that encompasses both Les Paul and Duane Eddy, along with the Ventures, Jimi Hendrix, John McLaughlin, Allan Holdsworth, Eddie Van Halen, Yngwie J. Malmsteen and Steve Vai, Joe Satriani adds brave new elements to the equation. He brings technical prowess and training, the romance of the instrumental form, and the application of harmony and music theory to the rock context—as well as being a compelling performer and musical personality. Though he utilizes principles and procedures which may superficially be deemed inaccessible to the masses, he succeeds dramatically in appealing to a diverse audience of guitarists, musicians and listeners alike, unquestionably making Joe the next link in the evolutionary chain of instrumental rock guitar music.

In Surfing with the Alien, Joe approaches instrumental music as melodies sung with the guitar, backed by tight, logical arrangements. The structural concern for melody and direction, large scale form (sectionalization), textural contrast, orchestration, use of signal processing and performance mood, is the mark of the guitarist as complete musician. The song form structures of "Surfing with the Alien," "Ice 9," "Crushing Day," "Always with Me, Always with You," "Lords of Karma" and "Echo" bear this out. They have an almost pop-song sense of inevitability and balance, with intros leading to verse-like statements and contrasting chorus/bridge sections, followed by improvisational guitar solos pushing towards verse recaps and outro/coda areas (often decorated with spectacular rideout guitarwork as in "Surfing" and "Ice 9").

hybrid. The contrasting mood (B section) is loud and explosive and is a veritable lexicon of 80's rock guitar pyrotechnics, with rapid tapped pentatonic blues scale riffs, tremolo bar vibrato, radical string bending and artificial harmonics, colored with an edgy wah-wah pedal (set as a filter boost). The A section returns by way of a short instrumental bridge (bars 35-48) to the gentleness of the opening mood.

The playful shuffle blues romp of "Satch Boogie" (See GUITAR July '88) provides yet another distinct atmosphere/mood. In the uptempo setting can be felt elements of Eddie Van Halen (fast boogie groove), big band jazz (a la Gene Krupa or Buddy Rich in the insistent swing of the pulse, and the Count Basie closing cadence) and a mix of rock guitar solo styles ranging from familiar Chuck Berry double stop bends (bars 67-69) to contemporary hard rock mannerisms like bi-dextral tap-ons (bars 73-75), whammy bar/harmonic tricks (bars 59-60 and 77-79) and extended modal scale runs (D Mixolydian: bars 57-64). All these elements are integrated into the conventional, largely pentatonic vocabulary of the idiom.

Joe Satriani's improvisational style runs the gamut from high-energy, wild, reckless and aleatoric to beautiful statements of great melodic depth and simplicity. His expressive and intelligent use of modal and pandiatonic melodies comes from his awareness of the harmonic ramifications of each mode: what can be said on the guitar is a result of its interaction with the background chords and the intervallic qualities of the scale it outlines. Like a rock version of Debussy or Bartok, his modal inclinations never seem cerebral, detached or contrived, but instead, form the basis for improvisational options which transcend the ordinary. Add to this the aspects of randomness, sound effects as musical events, and the thoughtful regard for the emotional value of dissonance, and one begins to develop an understanding of how some of his solo statements are born.

The opening measures of "Lords of Karma" illustrate some of the most technical yet flowing solo guitar work on the record. The two modes used are A Lydian (A,B,C#,D#,E,F#,G#; major 7th with raised 4th) and A Mixolydian (A,B,C#,D,E,F#,G; dominant 7th); each mode alternates exploiting its relationship to the tonal center (A). Notice under each two-bar section, that the mode is spelled out in the corresponding fret position for two octaves. Joe feels strongly that the intervallic distances contained in the steps from root to root is where the primary sonic value of the scalar line lives. Thus, the fingering form is offered which represents the parent scale of the melody in the solos. It is of paramount importance to focus on the specific sound of a mode before experimenting with extensions and permutations. Notice too that the melodies generated within this excerpt use only a portion of the two-octave parent scale (marked by brackets). Other interesting choices of modal/scalar materials can be found in the "Surfing" solos: the use of the Phrygian-Dominant mode (1,b2,3,4,5,b6,b7) contrasted by the conventional Phrygian mode (1,b2,b3,4,5,b6,b7) in C# (bars 41-48), and the Phrygian-Dominant mode contrasted by the Mixolydian mode (1,2,3,4,5,6,b7) in D# (bars 49-56) and in F (bars 57-64).

The main theme itself is a bluesy blend of G Dorian and G Mixolydian resulting in what could be dubbed the "Mixodorian." In G: G,A#,B,C,D,E,F (1,#2,3,4,5,6,b7). Similarly, the second theme in "Lords of Karma" (bars 41-52), hints at a Slavic ethnicity in the unorthodox 1,2,b3,4,b5,b6,7 scale employed. This is a subtle reordering of the "Hungarian Minor," normally spelled: 1,2,b3,#4,5,b6,7. As a soloist, Joe Satriani is capable of great diversity. In contrast to the technical prowess of "Lords Of Karma," he is the model of restraint and understatement throughout the performance of "Always with Me, Always with You" (See GUITAR Nov. '88). Playing with the "less is more" ethic of Larry Carlton, Carlos Santana or Jeff Beck, his approach is that of a jazz saxophonist rendering a balladic melody line (a la the legendary John Coltrane Plays Ballads recording), intent on underscoring the twists and turns of the

line with phrasing details (legato vs. staccato, palm muted vs. sustained and vibratoed), punctuation and reinterpretation. As a coloristic touch, Nashville-tuned electric guitars can be heard in the background (these are also used in "Echo"), stretching the guitar's facility as a timbral orchestral voice yet further. Joe Satriani is a leading exponent in what some call the "New Rock." Along with the modernistic concessions which are the obvious features of the style, is an uninhibited ability to rock hard, convincingly and with a unique impact. His command of string bending technique results in extremely vocalesque pitch changes (slightly sharp when bending into the minor 3rd of the scale, and slightly flat when bending into the 5th—shades of B.B. King), and a well-developed left-hand vibrato which sings, screams, cries and purrs. His collection of sound effects, from the "lizard down the throat" ("Ice 9": Guitar solo III, bars 5 & 6) to the off-the-neck string pulling, and a myriad space-age whammy bar and physical tricks, are among the most imaginative and ingenious in rock guitar since Hendrix. These, often flaunted alongside vintage rock 'n' roll quotes—for the effect of upsetting the musical equilibrium—reflect Joe's refined sense of the absurd. Satriani has often alluded to various modern harmony concepts in his music, as well as in his discussions concerning his works. While some of these concepts may seem initially complex and foreign to most guitarists, they are based on very solid and fundamental principles of music certainly worth investigating, and beneficial to any practicing musician who approaches them with an open mind and a creative attitude.

The notion of ostinato and its implicit structural order abounds in this album. Asalient example can be found in the opening measures of "Lords of Karma." The seed of the composition is contained in the first four-bar phrase (Rhy. Fig. 1), which is the exposition of two modal arpeggios: A5#4 (A Lydian mode) and A13sus4 (or Gmaj 9/A—the A Mixolydian mode) over an A pedal. The ostinato begun in bars 17-20 (Rhy. Fig. 3) is a repeating two-bar pattern which reflects the crucial notes of the changing modality: G# and D# in the first two bars for A Lydian and G and G and D in the second two bars for A Mixolydian. All the melodic materials and harmonic information for the verses (bars 21-36) and guitar solo (bars 63-102) are derived from the alternating modal centers and are united through the use of ostinato: in the bassline (Rhy. Fig. 3), in the recurring chord progression (Rhy. Fig. 1) and in the underlying effect of the parts. Interestingly, the practice of ostinato and its related forms goes back to the Baroque period, exemplified in Bach's famous violin Chaconne (circa 1730), and in the keyboard passacaglias of the time, verifying the universality of this concept.

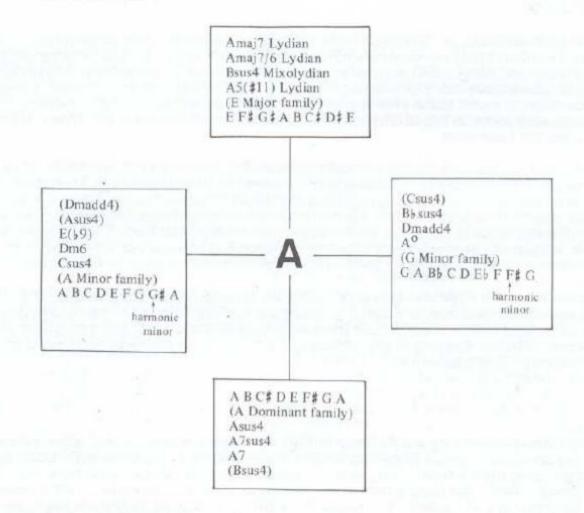
Other examples of the ostinato procedure can be heard in "Always with Me, Always with You," with its hypnotic chord sequence (Rhy. Fig. 1) behind the main theme (bars 21-36) and its variations (bars 37-52, 123-138) and solo episodes (bars 75-90, 91-106, 107-122) and in "Echo," where the foundation pattern (Rhy. Fig. 1) is a repeating eight-bar phrase in a funky 5/4 time.

No better demonstration of the Pitch Axis device exists than in the infamous tap-on bridge of "Satch Boogie." The following two-part example is offered as an introduction to this powerful musical tool:

Ex. 2A Pitch Axis
"Satch Boogie" (Bridge)

	A5(\$11)	Ao	Dmadd4/A	Asus4	B>sus4/	A Bsus4/A	Csus4/A	Amaj7(add	6) Dm6/A	E(b9)/A	A7sus4	Amaj7	447
	\$ OD .	\$8	100	0	200	#5 00	90	Amaj7(add	18	<b>#8&gt;</b>	City	#100	100
)	ē	ē	ē	ō	ō	ō	ē	ē	ē	ē	ē	ō	ō
	5 5	8 10 11	10 8 10	5 5 7	6 6 8	7 7 9	8 8 10	9 9 11	7 6 7	4 6 9	10 10 12	9 10 13	9 10 12
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-6	-0

Example 2A has reduced the intricate tap-on bridge of "Satch Boogie" to pure harmonic elements. Originally, these were all played on the 5th string only, and could not very easily be grasped as chord structure, particularly if one is confronting this concept for the first time. Each voicing is the block/cluster chord equivalent of the various tap-on arpeggios. The open A is the point of reference for each chord (its polar center) and is also the common tone throughout. By listening to each interval stack against this center, an awareness of harmony (as perceived by Satriani) begins to form in the ear. Each chordal reduction should be immediately compared with its tap-on counterpart.



Example 2B graphically demonstrates the Pitch Axis principle. Each chord has some relationship to the central pitch—A. The organization of chords into a family or group of related harmonic materials is essential to create order and identity within the Pitch Axis system. Chords which appear in more than one family are in parenthesis and, in the case of the two minor families (A minor and G minor), both the Aeolian mode (natural minor) and the harmonic minor scale have been combined to avoid redundancy and confusion. Note that the basic chordal types—major, minor and dominant—are all represented in the example. This principle, or subtle variations of it, have been found in the works of some of the greatest composers of the post-Romantic and neoclassical schools—notably Richard Wagner and Igor Stravinsky—and in the compositions of jazz guitarists like Allan Holdsworth and Pat Martino. From the return of the ingenuous 50's teen beat in "Surfing with the Alien," to the controlled chaos modernism of the third solo and eerie dissonance of his "ice chords" in "Ice 9," Satriani comments on the historical elements of instrumental rock and brings to it his own ideas of what may come.

In the intriquing book "Cat's Cradle," by Kurt Vonnegut, the earth is frozen by the crystallization of water into a new form by a substance known as "Ice Nine." Joe Satriani's world is also intriguing. He is experimenting with new forms of expression and approach; transforming and restructuring, stacking and reordering, altering the course of his instrument. And with his own "chilling" technique and fearlessness—like a mad scientist bent on progress—he is bringing forth the future.

## PERFORMANCE NOTES by Jesse Gress

### JOE SATRIANI\_\_\_\_

#### SURFING WITH THE ALIEN

After the fade in of control room dialogue, "Surfing..." literally explodes (using an overdubbed jet plane sample) into the opening rhythm figure based on the G Dorian mode. The melody enters eight bars later and by alternating between phrases using both the major and minor 3rd (B and Bb) a combined modality of Dorian and Mixolydian modes is achieved using a "Pitch Axis" of G. Joe utilizes many quarter-tone bends (a la B.B. King) throughout most of his playing. These microtonal bends really help the music come alive and should not be taken too lightly. Also in evidence on the melody is the subtle use of a wah-wah pedal for lots of different tone colors without the obvious wah effect. Using the wah-wah as a filter also helps bring out harmonics.

After another jet plane break, we hit hard into the first guitar solo on the "and" of beat 4, launching into a series of trilled sextuplets based on the C# Phrygian-Dominant mode (the fifth mode of F# harmonic minor). These trills are played using the edge of the pick to rapidly fret notes instead of fingertapping. Eight bars later the key jumps a whole step, featuring D# Phrygian-Dominant (the fifth mode of G# harmonic minor) for another eight bars, then another whole step, utilizing F Phrygian-Dominant (the fifth mode of Bb harmonic minor) for the third eight-bar solo. These solos are a wild ride and between the taps, trills, screaming harmonics and whamming bar work, Joe leaves no stone unturned. Following is a four-bar interlude featuring an almost "country" sounding lick over a chordal movement, both based on G Mixolydian.

Returning to the melody with some slight changes in phrasing, the tune appears to be heading for a close, but not so! After a four-bar jet plane sample break, Joe pulls out all the stops and rips it up using all of the aforementioned techniques plus a few more such as "playing" the trem. bar, Chuck Berry-style double-stop bends, and muted lines played in diatonic thirds before the fade out. Whether listening to or performing this tune, one is promised two things: sheer exhilaration followed by sheer exhaustion! Surf's up!

#### ICE NINE

This sinister-sounding theme, inspired by a substance in Kurt Vonnegut's "Cat's Cradle" which crystalizes water on contact, begins with two accented intervals (a perfect 5th to a major 3rd) providing some initial contrary motion before settling into a two-bar pumping rhythm figure using root-5th chords in parallel motion. Four bars later, the "ice chords" enter (Fill 1) and the mood is set for the appearance of the melody another four bars later. This melody owes much to Jimi Hendrix in both its phrasing and content. It is stated twice before moving to its first variation, an eight-bar figure liberally sprinkled with artificial harmonics and quarter-tone bends. These short one-bar statements are answered by a chiming funky chordal figure which is in turn answered by the "ice chords" (Fill 2). Leading out of this section is a descending sixteenth- note C# blues scale figure on bar 8 providing the transition to what could be called the "Chorus." This eight-bar section contains a theme played in three octaves over a thick, syncopated rhythm figure. Next, the melody is restated in three octaves followed by a one-bar drum break which leads into perhaps the album's most ferocious soloing, grouped into three distinct sections, each using drastically different tones and techniques. The first eight-bar solo cuts loose with an amazing flurry of thirty-second notes played with an extremely legate technique and brings to mind elements of Frank Zappa's soloing style. The main tonality here is Eb Dorian (derived from the Db major scale) with the addition of a flatted 5th for bluesiness. Bar 7 features a bent note combined with a trem, bar upward pull, while bar 8 restates the same general idea three octaves lower.

Solo number two, also eight bars long, commences with what sounds like a heavily treble-filtered pick slide (filtered with a wah-wah pedal in fixed position), but could also be a series of harmonics produced by playing rapid triplet pull-offs on a single string with the left hand while simultaneously running the side of the right hand index finger back and forth along the length of the string between the bridge and neck. Try 'em both; they're equally big fun. The wild "treble till you can't stand it" tone of this section yields some indescribable artificial harmonics in bars 3 and 4. There are two harmonics produced here that, as the string is bent, move in opposite directions resulting in a ring modulation effect with no ring modulator in sight. Try "fishing" for these harmonics at various points along the string length including on the fingerboard. This lick is surrounded by some rapid-fire thirty-second note lines based on Bb Dorian (key of Ab major) again using many legato hammer-ons and pull-offs. In bar 7, the note is raised in two distinct trem. bar pulls followed by an ever-widening whammy vibrato in bar 8.

Solo number three (also eight bars long) is the darndest thing I've ever heard. These are some noises Adrian Belew would be proud of! Using backward recorded guitars we begin with a sound that sounds like my car when I try to start it on cold damp days and continue through some harmonic squeals into three examples of what Joe has termed the "lizard down the throat" sound. This consists of raising a note by sliding it up the string and simultaneously lowering the whammy bar in an attempt to keep the pitch the same. The result is this other-worldly warble that backwards or forwards, sounds great! A C#5 chord rises from the flubber and gives way to the D.S. of the melody. To hear what was played in real time in the third solo, you must somehow listen to this section of the song backwards. This is most easily accomplished by flipping the reels on a reel-to-reel tape recorder. After the return to the melody and variation we move into an elongated chorus, featuring the melody played in three octaves. The Outro solo (beginning in bar 3 of the Coda) is based on the C# blues scale. Statements phrased around the recycling chorus melody line are used to create tension. The soloing becomes more intense and the spaces become fewer as "Ice Nine" slowly fades to audio black.

#### CRUSHING DAY

The eighth-note rhythm figure in the Intro seems to be switching modalities between C Ionian and C Lydian. Like the upcoming melody, it is based on the fourth mode of the G harmonic minor scale (C, D, Eb, F#, G, A, Bb) similar to C Lydian but with the substitution of a flat 3rd for a major 3rd. The result is an Eastern quality further enhanced by the use of many grace slurs and trem, bar dips and pulls. These pulls can also be achieved by positioning the bar to face in the opposite

direction (towards the strap pin) and pushing on it to raise pitches. Bouncing on the bar while simultaneously hammering a note with the left hand will also "Easternize" phrases.

The melody is stated three times over twelve bars, with different fills between each phrase, then moves into a "Chorus" section. This eight-bar section consists of a very singable melody and full rhythm figure both based on the key of G minor. Note the harmony in 3rds in bars 4-8. After a repeat of the eight-bar intro, twelve-bar melody and eight-bar chorus, the entire chorus modulates down a minor 3rd to the key of E minor for eight bars before returning to G minor for a four-bar restatement of the Chorus melody in harmony. Notice how the last notes of the Chorus melody are sustained over the intro figure for over six measures by means of finger vibrato only. This is the same sound that opens Jimi Hendrix' "Foxy Lady".

The first solo follows and is a classic example of combined "call and response" and "theme and development" techniques. The lines throughout the first eight bars all start off with the same notes but are developed differently each time using the G minor pentatonic scale with an occasional 6th (E) thrown in. The eight bars repeat this idea one octave higher. Next, a new rhythm figure (G Dorian to D Dorian) establishes the harmonic climate for the next set of solos beginning with an eight-bar section consisting of variations of a three-note figure. Bars 1, 2, 5 and 6 of the next eight bars can be played in one of two ways: by sweep picking three notes and following with a pull-off or by using hammer-ons. Note the thick rhythm guitar texture throughout, which provides background harmony and drive but is never obtrusive. The next four bars contain an exciting pattern achieved by grouping eight sixteenth notes into two- and three-note subgroups and utilizing pull-offs, before giving way to a descending blues scale sequence. Following are a few Chuck Berry-isms, some broken 6th intervals, 4th's played as double stops, and a descending blues scale sequence phrased in eighth-note triplets. The next section alternates between the modalities of Eb Lydian (from the Bb major scale) and F Mixolydian (also Bb major) for four bars each. These modalities are described melodically by sequences using the Bb major scale first in sixteenth notes, then in eighth-note triplets. Another sixteenth-note figure follows, outlining triads in various inversions, with the sixteenth notes again grouped two, three and three using pull-offs between the first two notes of each group. A nice melodic line utilizing eighth-note triplets and some wide intervallic jumps brings the solo to its wind down. The solo ends with a sustained descending theme using a quick sixteenth-note bend at the end of every other measure to ensure Eastern quality followed by one of Joe's patented raked artificial harmonic screams. The re-statement of the melody follows, again with different fills between each phrase, and after twelve bars moves to the two alternating Chorus sections (G minor and E minor) before fading on this extremely whistleable melody.

#### ALWAYS WITH ME, ALWAYS WITH YOU

This ballad in 3/4 time features some stellar guitarwork utilizing a few clean tone rhythm guitars to back up the distorted melody and solo guitar. The basic rhythm part (Rhy. Fig. 1) is made up of chord arpeggiations based on a I-IV-V, with brief reference to VI. Most of the chords feature upper extensions (tensions), such as the 11th (4th) and 13th (6th). The melody is based on B major (B,C#,D#,E,F#,G#,A#), and is sixteen bars long. The second group of sixteen bars features Joe improvising on the melody, displaying a beautiful touch and great control, moving smoothly from elaborate to succinct phrasing. The next twenty-two bar section shifts to minor, utilizing the same basic progression (with bVI replacing VI). Joe's lines here are based on B Aeolian (B,C#,D,E,F#,G,A). The riff in bars 6 & 7 is virtually all hammer-ons and pull-offs, so keep your left hand loose and try to apply even pressure throughout the phrase. Bars 13-22 feature what sound like overdubbed electric sitars; in the score they are notated for standard-tuned guitar, and a boxed figure below shows the part noted for "Nashville-tuned" guitar (strings 6 through 3 are tuned one octave higher; consequently, different string gauges are used for these strings). Joe recaps the melody before launching into an eleven-bar tapping-riff featuring the open B string, the twelfth fret octave, and a note from B major played as a three-note riff in straight sixteenths, creating a polyrhythm of three against four. Joe's final soloing section features a brief workout on B pentatonic major (B,C#,D#,F#,G#) in bars 2-8. Joe's final cadenza-like phase is written in tempo (against the synthesized percussion), but the feel is that of a riff in free time. This is a nice piece of music which features some great guitarwork, so get crackin'.

- Andy Aledort

#### HILL OF THE SKULL

This piece for guitar orchestra seems to travel to the listener at three different speeds: normal, half and double, but this effect is, in fact, the result of careful orchestration and production. This transcription can be played as written using four separate guitars, or guitars III and IV can be combined with some slight fingering adjustments. Everything here is pretty straightforward with the melody (again the ghost of Jimi makes an appearance) derived from E minor. The ending features a screaming audience of harmonics, some produced by normal means and others by lightly running a finger along one of the wound strings. This section proved almost impossible to notate, so listen to the recording, use your feelings and just go for it!

#### SATCH BOOGIE

This tune is like ZZ Top played at 78—sort of an 80's raveup in the tradition of "Jeff's Boogie," Jeff Beck's old flash piece from his Yardbirds days. Joe plays with fury and his tone is monstrous. Heavy distortion plus heavy picking enable him to get the wide variety of artificial harmonics he produces. This also serves to strengthen the sound of the natural harmonics, especially when they're treated to tremolo bar abuse. Most of his lines are based on pentatonic minor (1,b3,4,5,b7) the blues scale (1,b3,b5,5,b7) and the Mixolydian mode (1,2,3,4,5,6,b7) following the basic chordal outline (A,D,F#m). Kind of a Beck meets Hendrix meets Gibbons meets Berry meets Vai affair, if you will.

The second half of the tune features an extended tapping riff which utilizes one tapped note and two fretted notes, along with the open A string. Joe's phrasing is a little haphazard, so the transcription features what seems to be the most logical phrasing. The tapped and fretted notes change constantly, alluding to many different and unusually juxtaposed tonalities. I suggest analyzing this part for a full understanding of the suggested chord movement. One final word: there is an abundance of pulling on the tremolo bar in this piece, so if your tremolo system doesn't allow you this luxury, these sounds can be recreated by bending the string behind the nut.

- Andy Aledort

#### CIRCLES

Opening with a half-time-feel, two-bar, reggae-influenced rhythm, a lone guitar enters playing a series of mid-to low-register double stops punctuated here and there with an occasional palm-muted bass note. The guitar uses a very clean sound and is treated with delayed echo repeats set to play in time with the tempo, resulting in many ghosted notes throughout this figure. This "chord melody" centers around the key of E minor, but no 3rds are present in the voicing used and have often been replaced by the 2nd, functioning sometimes as an added 9th. The sixteenth-note subgrouping here is 3+3+2 mostly with each subgroup being held as a chord form, sometimes moving a voice. After stating the melody four times (8 bars), the first variation occurs. This consists of a two-bar figure, with sixteenth-note subgroups of 3+2+2 using a more pronounced muted bass part answered by ringing upper chord voices. After one bar of this figure is restated, we return to the melody, played twice (two bars). The next four-bar figure is funky and ominous and consists of three ascending double stops followed by answering bass voices creating a dominant 7th sonority. A sharp break on beat 3 of the fourth bar allows you to hear the exact tempo of the echo repeats.

After the break, the tempo is doubled for the solo sections which feature a complete change of character and rock feroclously. The first movement is played over an E Dorian chord movement and uses a lot of right-hand tapping. Again, throughout the solos, Joe uses a wah-wah pedal as a filter, moving it slightly now and then to accent and change tone colors. More wild whammy work and tapping gives way to the 2nd movement, a modulation to A minor for eight bars. This solo starts with a sixteenth-note triplet pickup into some raked quarter-notes followed by a rapid fire sixteenth-note line, once again perfectly illustrating the question/answer or call and response form as an improvisational technique. A bluesy lick ending in eighth-note triplets is followed by another of Joe's patented "touched" harmonics. (see "Ice Nine" for details). Then, it's back to E Dorian for another eight-bar blow, kicking off with the lowest and highest notes on the axe. Talk about setting your boundaries! Next we move through a nice series of intervallic jumps using 6th's, 5th's and 4th's played as a sequence of eighth-note triplets. The last four bars set up another call and response form, the question being posed in single notes and answered in double stops.

The fourth movement introduces a new harmonic climate using a B7 to D7 to Cmaj7 progression with none of the chords containing a 3rd. The solo over these changes is derived form the E harmonic minor scale functioning also as the B Phrygian-Dominant mode, and is very thematic, developing the same basic four-bar phrase through three movements before ending with a band breakdown figure reminiscent of the V7 chord raveup turnarounds of yesteryear, though the simultaneous harmonic screams are quick to remind the listener that we are indeed approaching the 90's. The return to the opening theme provides a huge dynamic contrast as the wall of sound is stripped down to a single guitar. This figure is played as before with the addition of a four-bar tag in the Coda, and an extra half-bar leading to the final guitar chord, which is answered by an orchestral synth timbre two beats later. As these chords fade, percussion figures play on for eight bars before coming to an abrupt stop and we're left blowin' in the wind.

#### LORDS OF KARMA

Another example of Joe's use of the "Pitch Axis" composition technique, "Lords of Karma" opens with an electric sitar (Coral, no doubt) shifting two-bar phrases between two modalities based on the same root note (A). The A5 (#11) chord is derived from A Lydian, while the A13sus4 comes from A Mixolydian. Each chord is held as a chord form and is arppegiated and allowed to ring for six more beats. The rhythm guitar states an abridged version of the upcoming bassline before both kick in on bar 16, the guitar now doubling the bassline. Both parts continue throughout the A melody section. The melody follows the modal shifts of the chords and is very Eastern-sounding due to the tonality and use of grace slurs, which slide into notes from above the intended pitches. After the second ending things move into a kind of sinister surf beat section using chords derived from A minor; however the trem, bar dips and the inclusion of the F# and D# in the melody keep this from sounding like A natural minor. Note the carefully timed trem, bar vibrato which pulses in rhythm at the end of certain lines. This is also reminiscent of Eastern musics. Eight bars later, this section modulates up a major 2nd (to B minor) and continues for eight more bars. Following is a two-bar theme stated three times over an E5-to-C5 chord progression. The melody notes create a C7b5 sound over the second bar of the theme. Again note the carefully controlled trem, bar vibrato on the first bar of each recurrence of this theme. Subtle, but so nice. The mounting tension seems to peak with a shift to 3/4 time for four bars, featuring simultaneous droning and pumping of an E5 sonority while the 5th is chromatically raised to the flat 7th (B,C,C#,D) resulting in the James Bond/Secret Agent modality. Just as the tension begs to be released, we return to the intro figure with the abridged bass figure (Hhy. Figs. 1 & 2). The seeming break in tension is shattered by a lone pulled-off open G string which after diving into flubberland makes an amazing comback as a harmonic scream two octaves higher and continues to ascend until the bar is raised to the max (in my guitar's case, anyway), strategically landing the note on a D# above that, which happens to be the raised 4th of the Asus#4 chord being sounded! Too much! This is accomplished using a "touched" harmonic at the fifth fret (see "Ice Nine") on the G string. As the D# is reached on beat two it is held for four and a half more beats before diving once again to flubber. Tension is released only for a few beats as a pick slide leads into the solo, an incredible wall of sound using mostly a sixteenthnote triplet motif to burn through scalar sequences, again based on the shifting A Lydian to A Mixolydian modalities (two bars each). In major key-center thinking this translates to two bars of E major to two bars of D major. Twelve bars later a figure occurs which utilizes scale tones pulled of to an open E (1st) string as a pitch axis for four bars. Next, a four-bar theme is introduced using the trem. bar to dip into, then quickly raise the pitches a major 3rd for two bars, then a minor 3rd. This is a great example of "playing" the bar, and though it sounds Eastern, the feeling of performing this move is more trombone, slide whistle or musical saw oriented. The theme is repeated in a similar fashion one octave higher with some amazing fills on the fourth bar. Here a harmonic is raised a sharp 4th and followed by Joe's "lizard down the throat" sound, explained in the footnote on the score. Another four-bar theme follows, answered by another series of sixteenth-note-triplet-based ideas using pull-offs to the open E and B strings before diving and finally approaching the tonic A from the flat 7th (G). The next section can be viewed as the Bridge and the first time in the tune since the intro, the "wall of sound" approach gives way to some space. A series of chord changes, all held as chord forms, are arpeggiated by the electric sitar and move to a V7#9 chord on bar 16, sustaining for two bars. Rhy. Figs. 1 & 2 follow with some nice feedback occurring on the sustained low A note in bars 3 & 4 of this eight-bar figure. Two rhythmic punches on bar 8 lead us to the D.S.—a repeat of the A melody section—through the second ending to the Coda. The Coda breaks the "Pitch Axis" and is in A Mixolydian. The theme introduced here is very reminiscent of Jimi Hendrix in its phrasing of sliding eighth-note octaves. After sixteen bars the theme is repeated with 3rds harmony, also played in octaves, and repeated six times (for a total of twenty-four bars) starting a fade on the seventh repeat. As the tune fades, it's worthwhile to note how such an otherwise complex piece can end up with a very singable, simple melodic hook.

#### MIDNIGHT

A fingertap tour de force combining traditional and modern classical harmony, "Midnight" shows the power of this technique in yet another light. Every note is tapped using both the left and right hands. Using some sort of string damper (e.g. tying a cloth or even a rubber band at the first fret) will prevent pitches produced behind fretted notes from sounding. Even though sections of the piece are played with a rubato feel, it is helpful to think of the alternating left- and right-hand patterns as drum patterns. If you can keep time tapping these rhythms on a table top you should have no problem putting them on the fingerboard. The first section uses mostly a repetitive four-note pattern (LLRR) and seems to work best using the 1st and 4th (or 3rd) left-hand fingers and 1st and 2nd right-hand fingers. So far all chord sounds have been described using arpeggios.

In the second section each hand taps two notes simultaneously, and the hands alternate with each interval played, resulting in a fuller, chordal sound. Next, the melody is stated three times, accelerating each time before ending with an alternating iv°/I,I (or biv°/I,I) movement using the tapping pattern from the first section.

#### **ECHO**

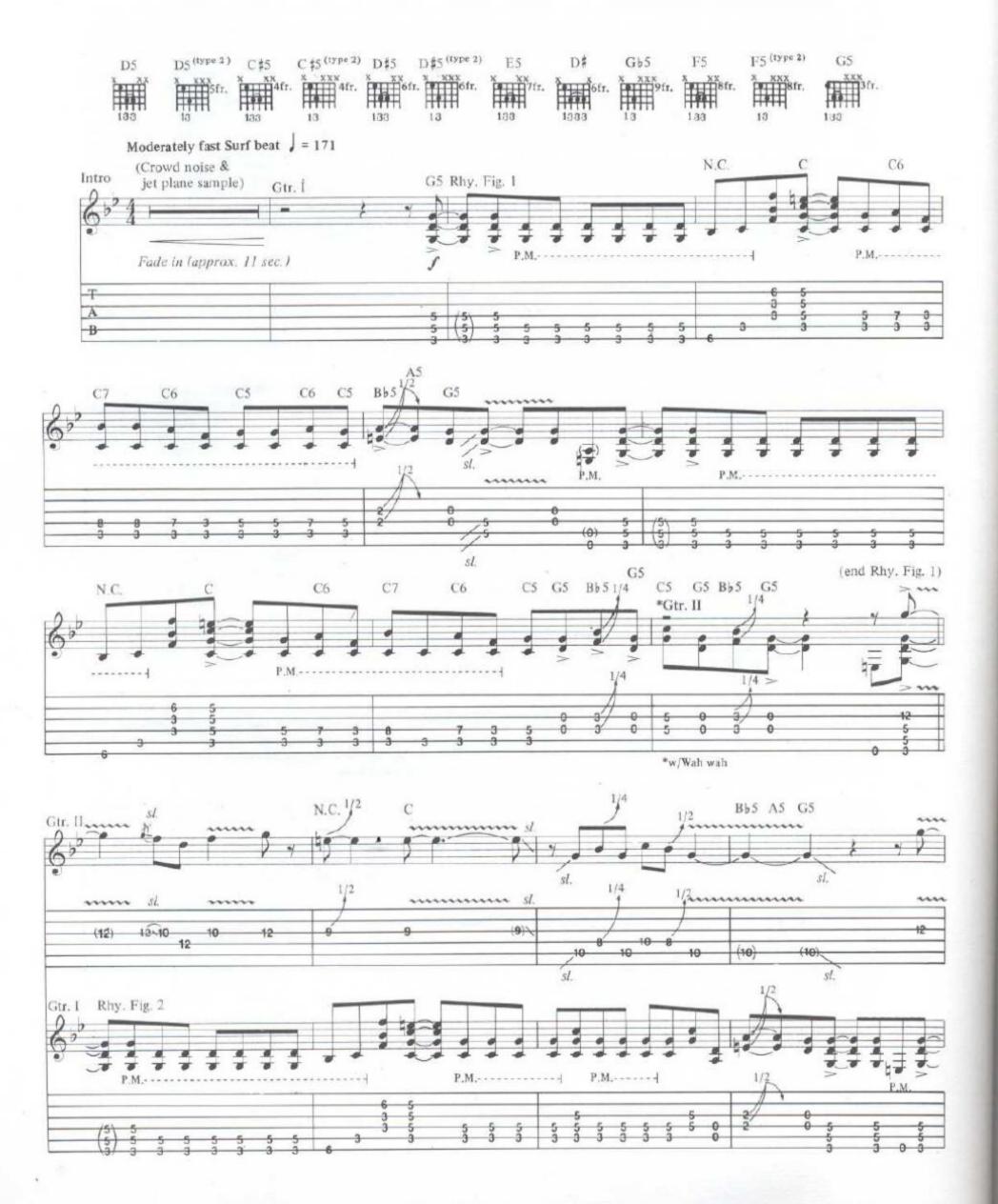
Using an infectious 5/4 groove, "Echo" creates some complex musical structures using a combination of fairly simple ingredients combined with extreme ingenuity and grace. Starting with a palm-muted rhythm figure consisting of the first five notes of the E natural minor scale, a shifting effect is achieved because the pattern of five eighth notes played against the pulse of five quarter notes starts first on a downbeat and then on an upbeat, alternating continuously. This creates a "harmonic veil" which implies a chord sound. Different chord sounds are achieved by changing the first note of the five-note pattern to different root notes (D, then C) before returning to the E minor sound. Also featured (entering at bar 9) is a very piano-like "Nashville-strung" guitar. For this tuning the bottom four strings (E through G) are tuned up an octave higher than normal. Of course, you must use lighter strings. The effect is that of a twelve-string without the lower octaves.

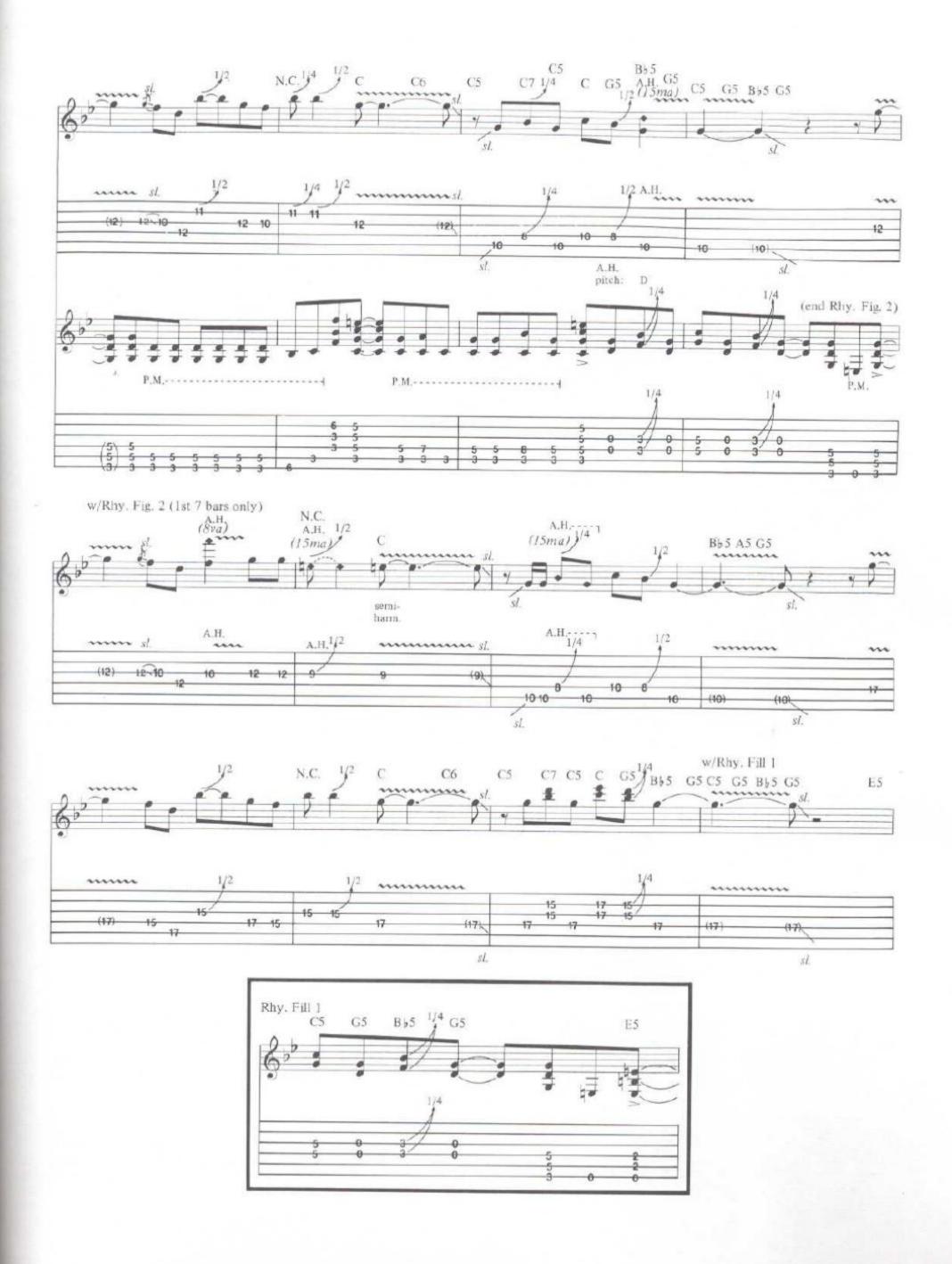
The first melody, quite simple and very pretty, is based on the E minor scale, accentuating key tones for tension (the A note creating a suspended sound over Em) playing through the chord changes (bars 4-8), and getting bluesy (fill on 2nd ending). The second melody section has three guitar parts. The melody itself opens up via notes of longer duration (note the rhythmic motif). A busier motif occurs in the second guitar part using a four-note arpeggio played using combined staccato (P.M.) and legato notes. Hold each chord form for two bars. Guitar III is Nashville-strung and comes across as very pianistic using a sparse motif that is almost the opposite of the melody's.

This melody section ends with a long sustained note with feedback and a backwards power chord. The measure of rest that starts the first chorus of the guitar solo gives way to an amazing line built from the E natural minor scale utilizing many hammers and pull-offs. The entire solo shows how far the natural minor scale can go as a tool for improvisation. Joe's phrasings throughout utilize grace notes (using hammers and slides,) bends, artificial harmonics, spaces between phrases, a wide range of dynamics, and impeccable timing. The second chorus continues to mix bluesy lines with natural minor scale lines ending with an inventive minor scale sequence. The third chorus starts with a rapid fire six-note ostinato that lasts for two measures before turning into a sequenced scale line and ending with a screaming artificial harmonic. More mixing of scale-wise and blues lines finish this chorus and the next. The solo finishes with a two-bar tag. After the repeated melodies, the Coda's guitar solo brings the mood way down using a lot of space, bluesy phrasing, and great dynamics. Notice how quiet this whole solo is played as well as its subtle re-working of many "Hendrixisms". It's interesting that Joe chose to end the album on this note. The fact that so much emotion can be put into phrases played so quietly certainly attests to the power of dynamics in music.

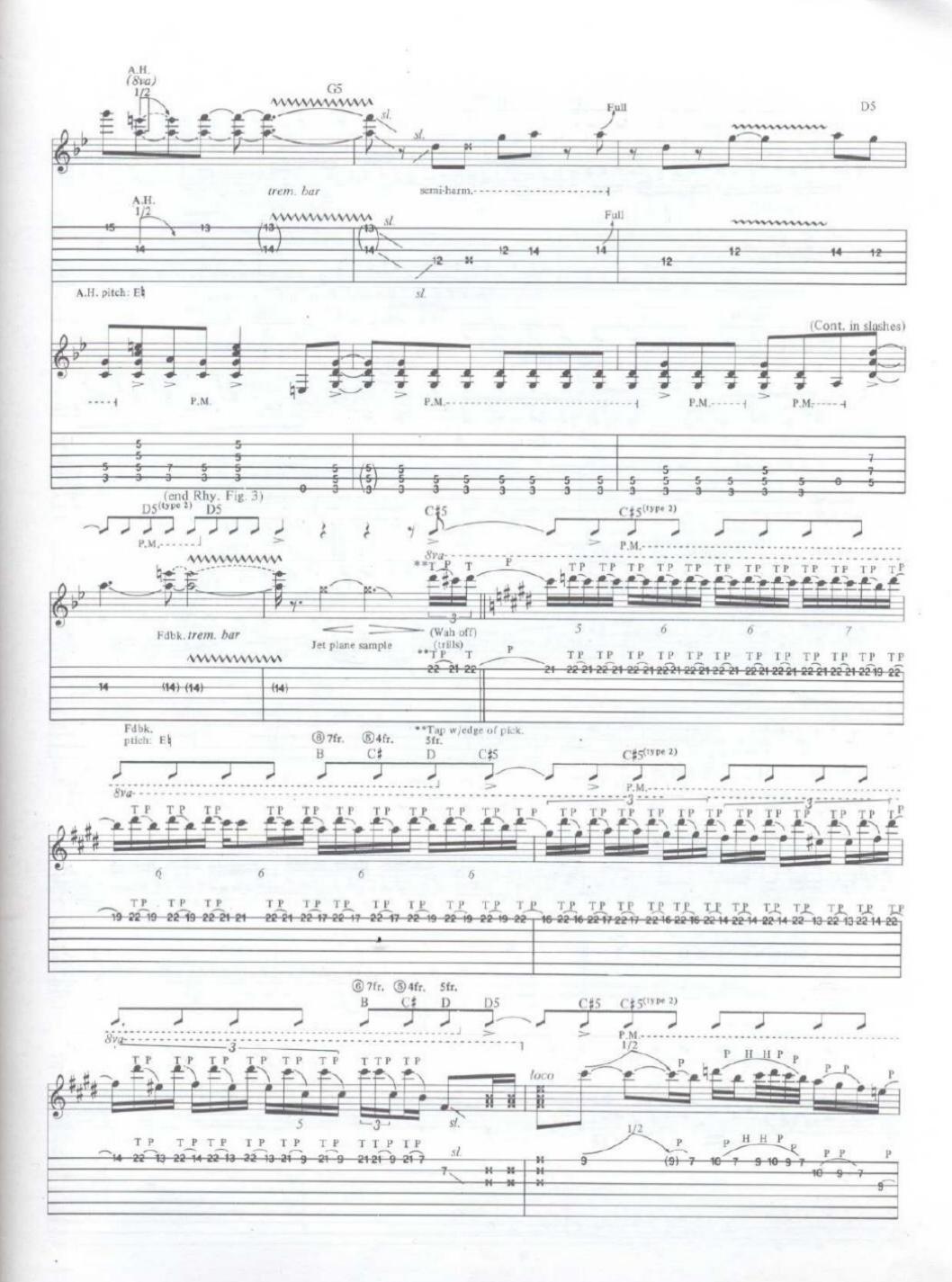
## SURFING WITH THE ALIEN

Music by Joe Satriani

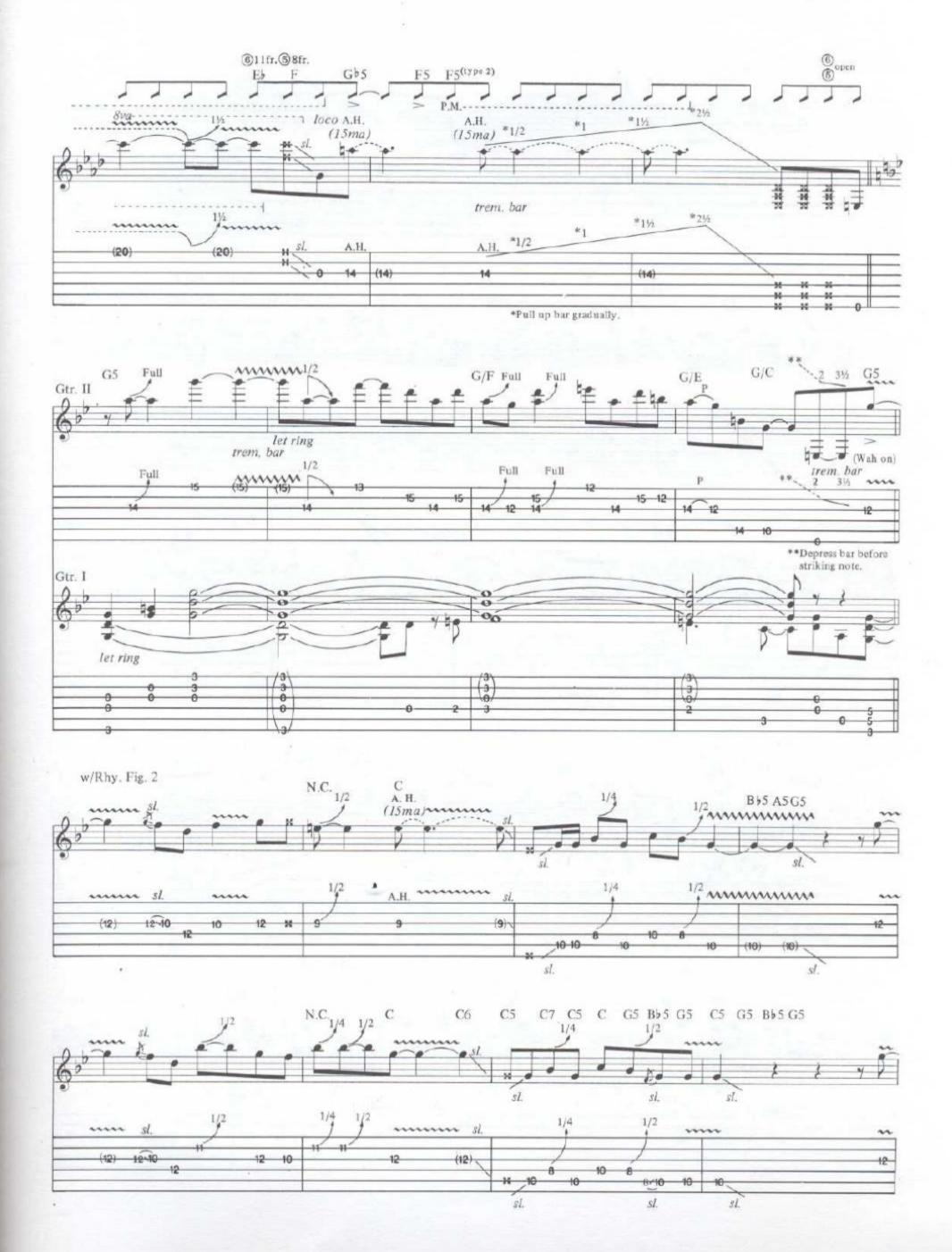




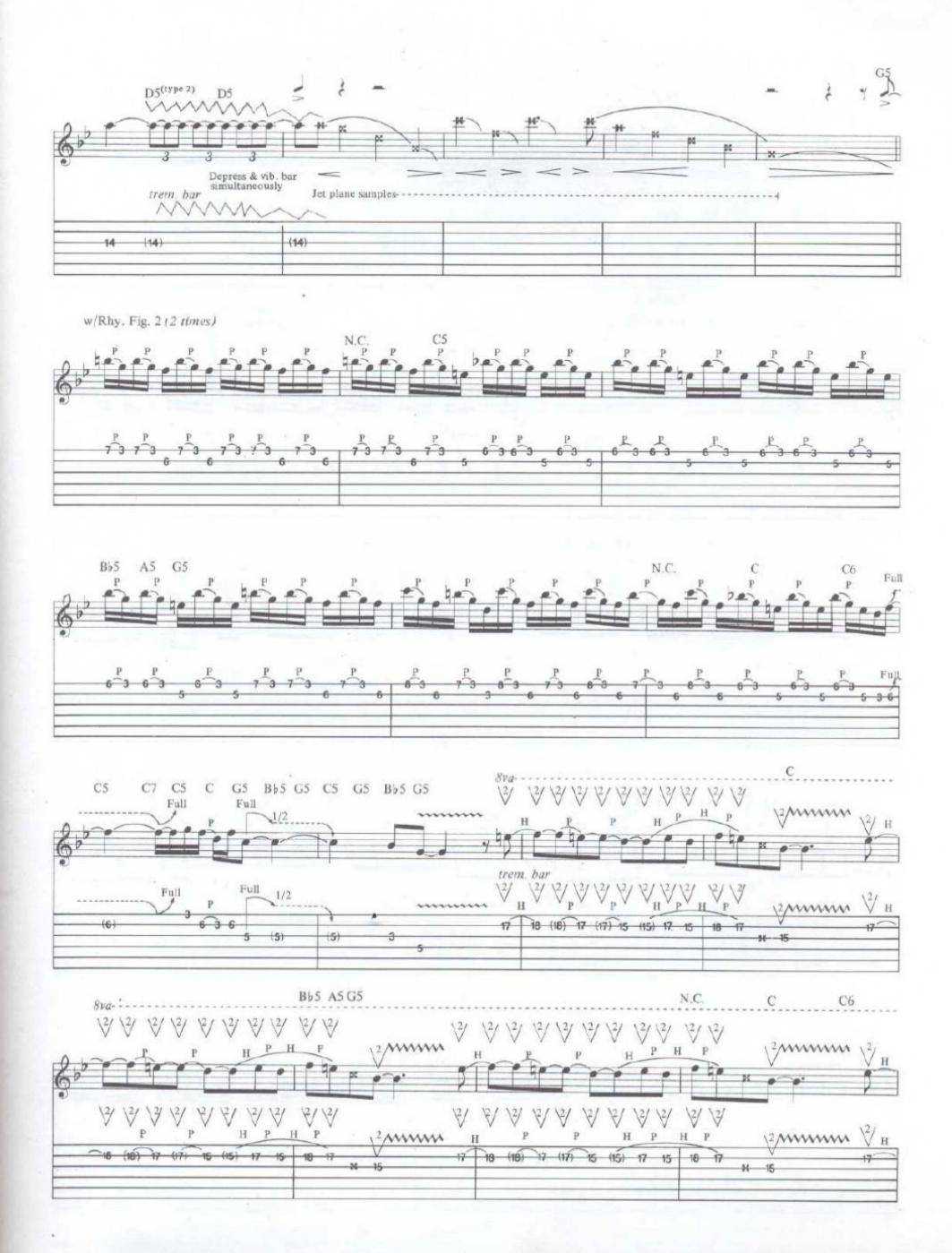




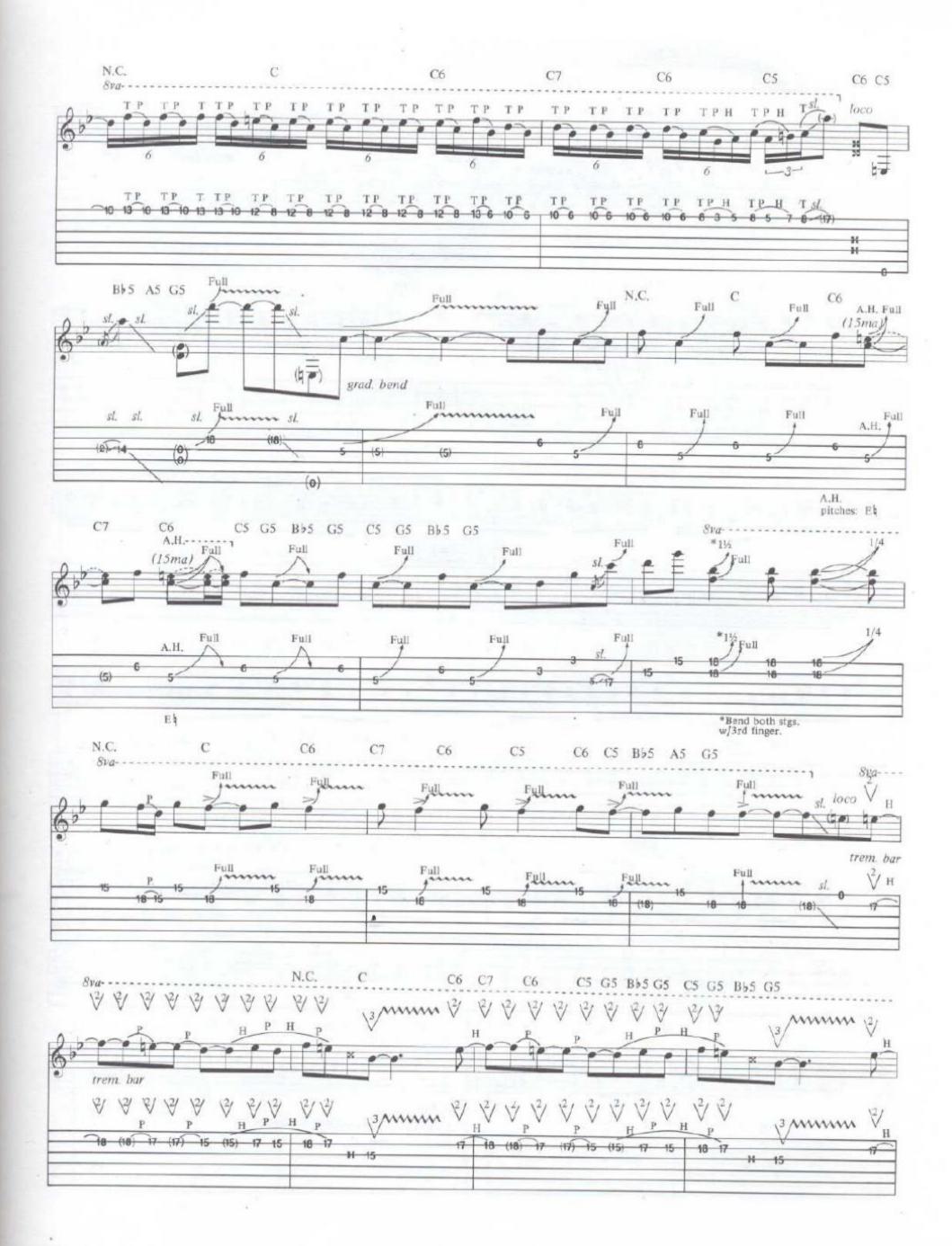


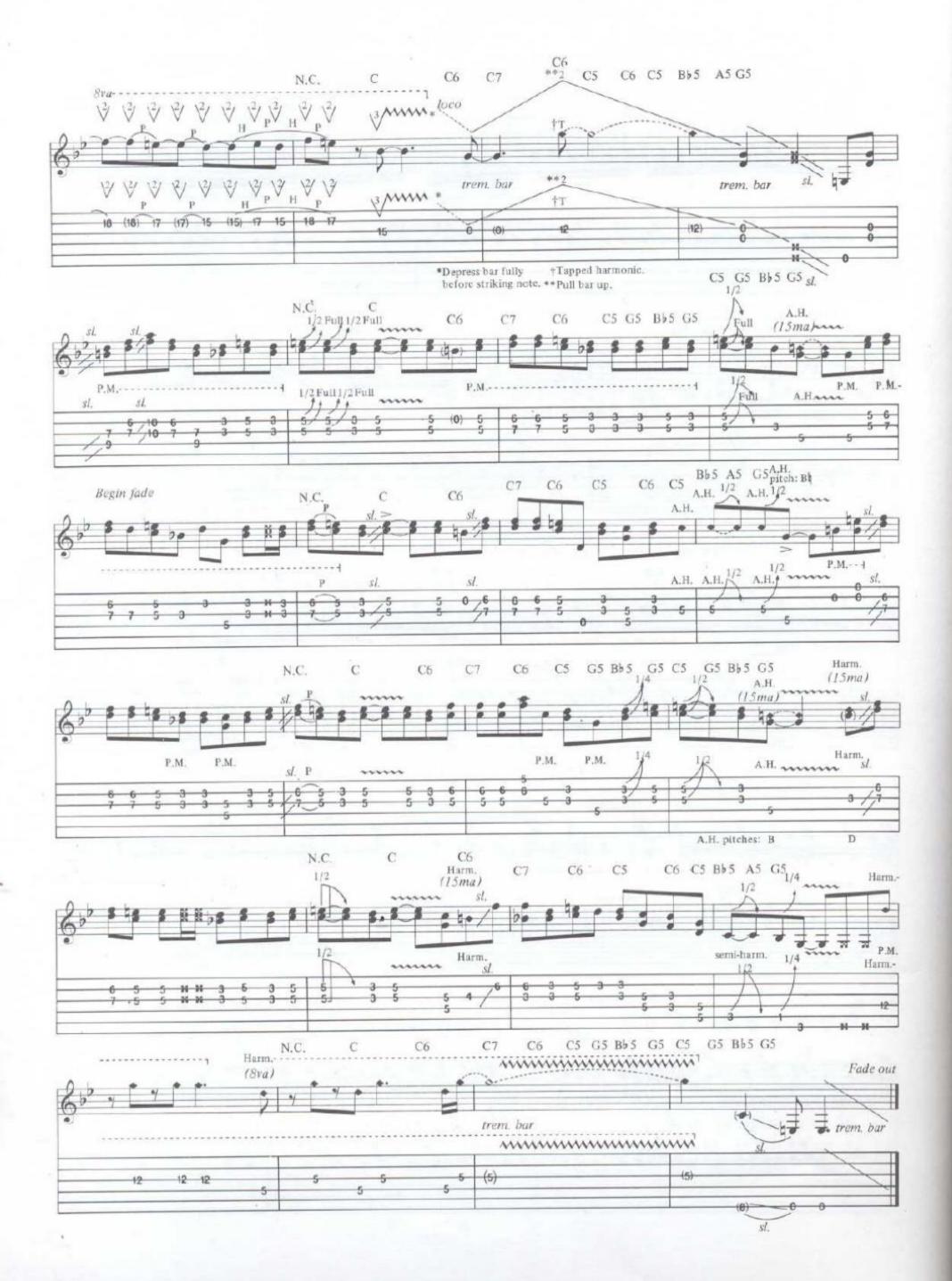








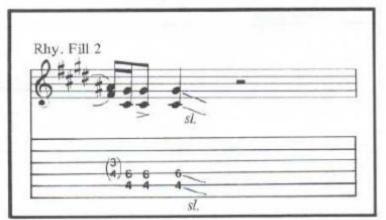














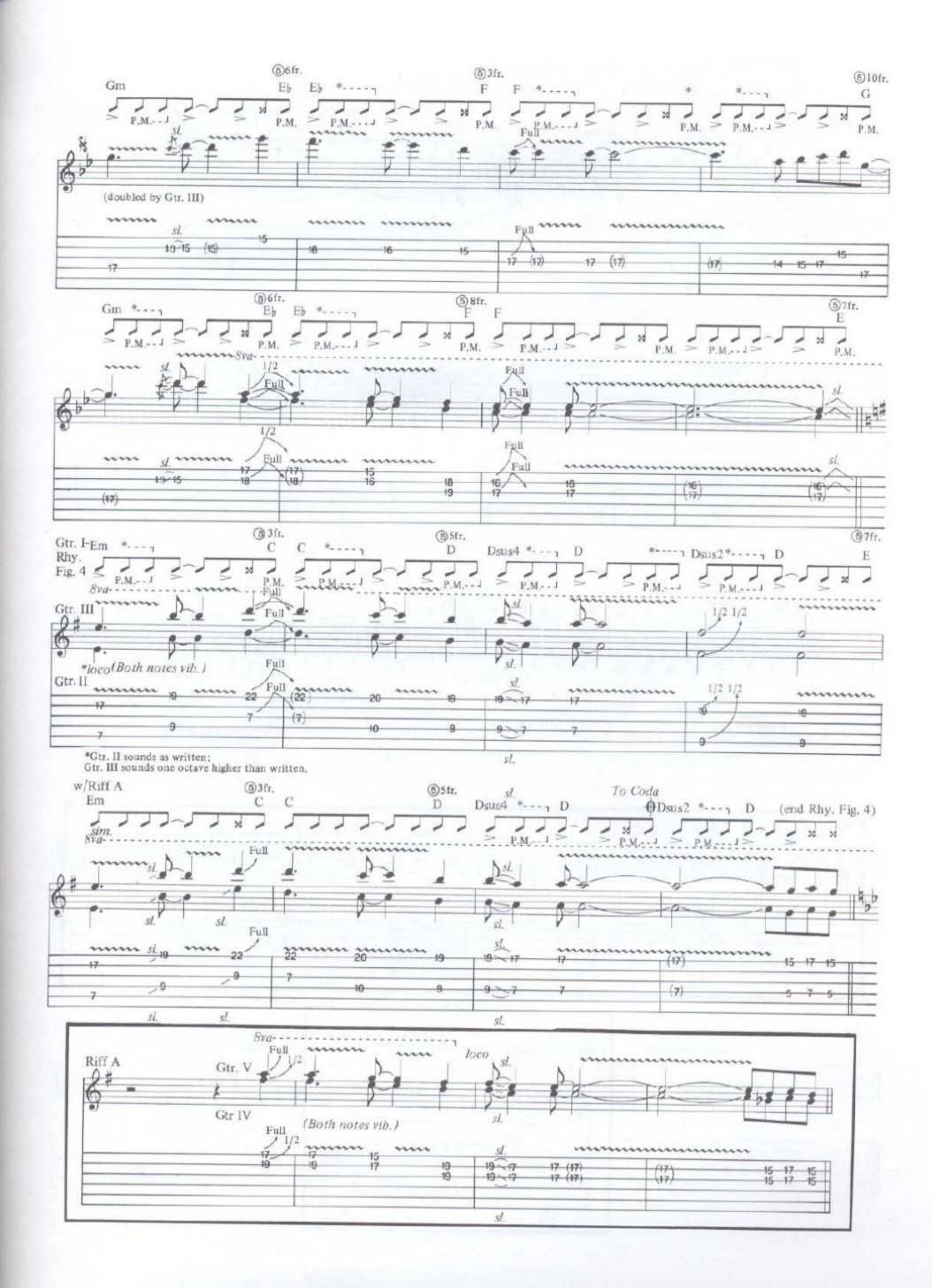


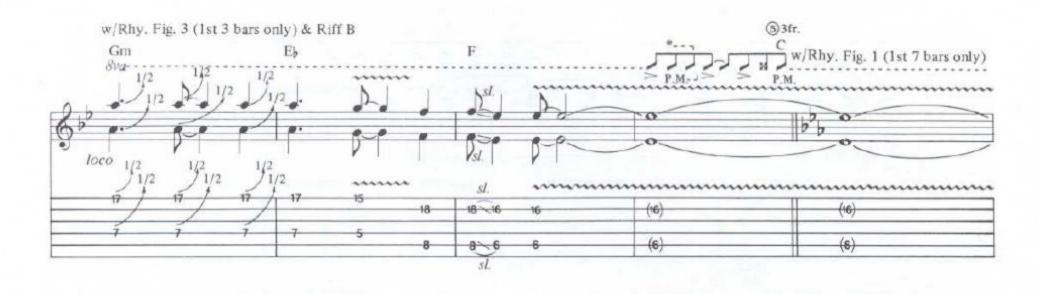


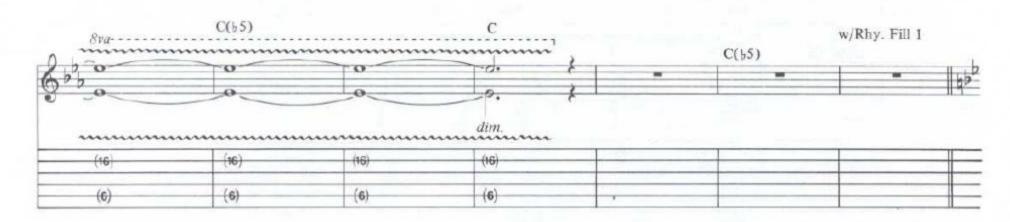
Music by Joe Satriani

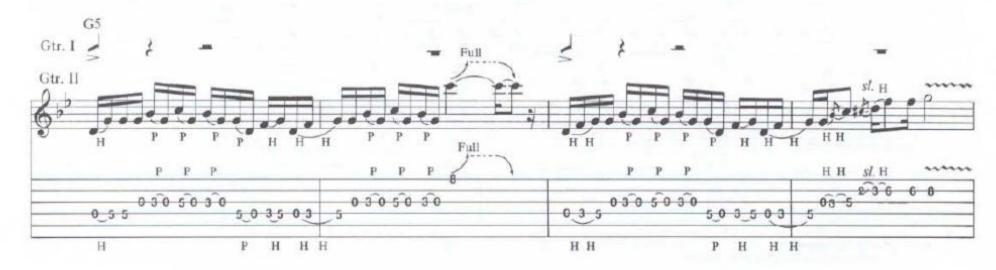


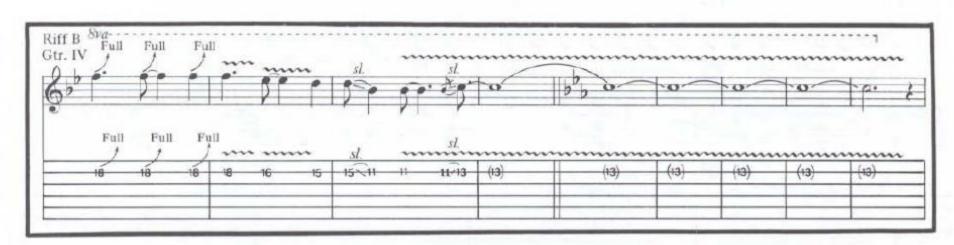


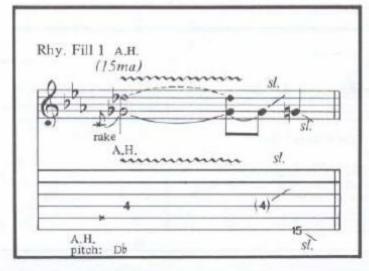












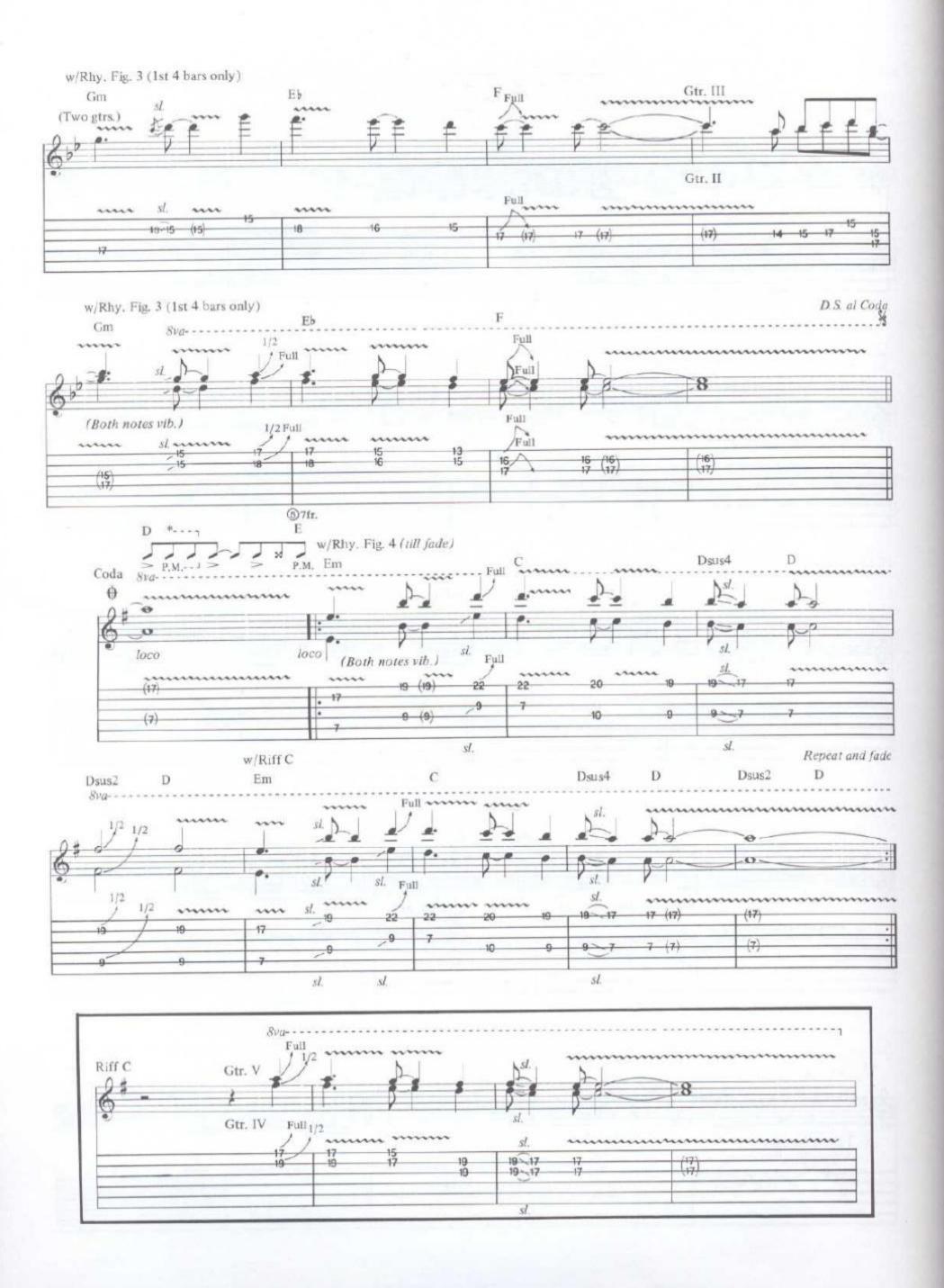












# ALWAYS WITH ME, ALWAYS WITH YOU





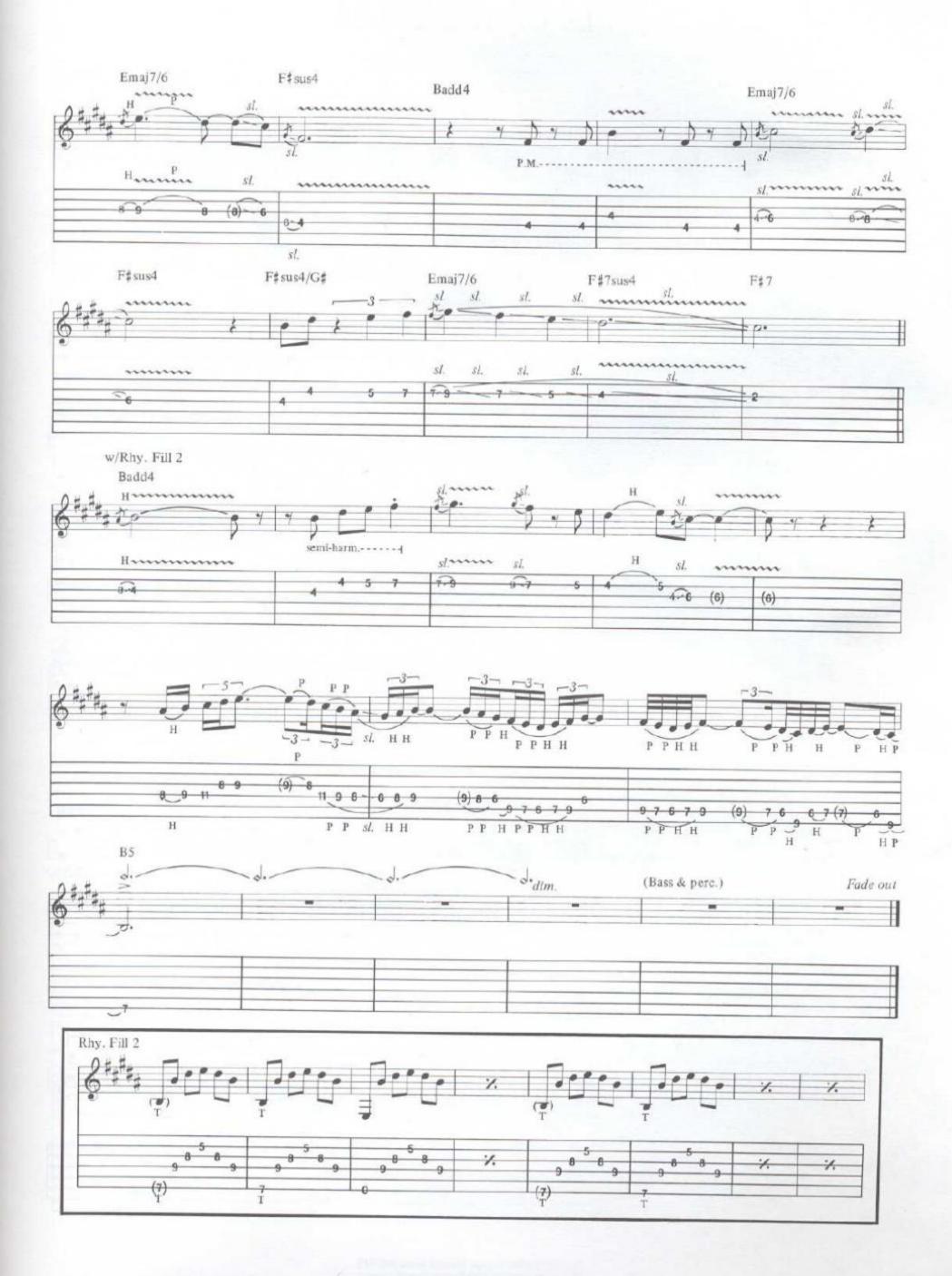












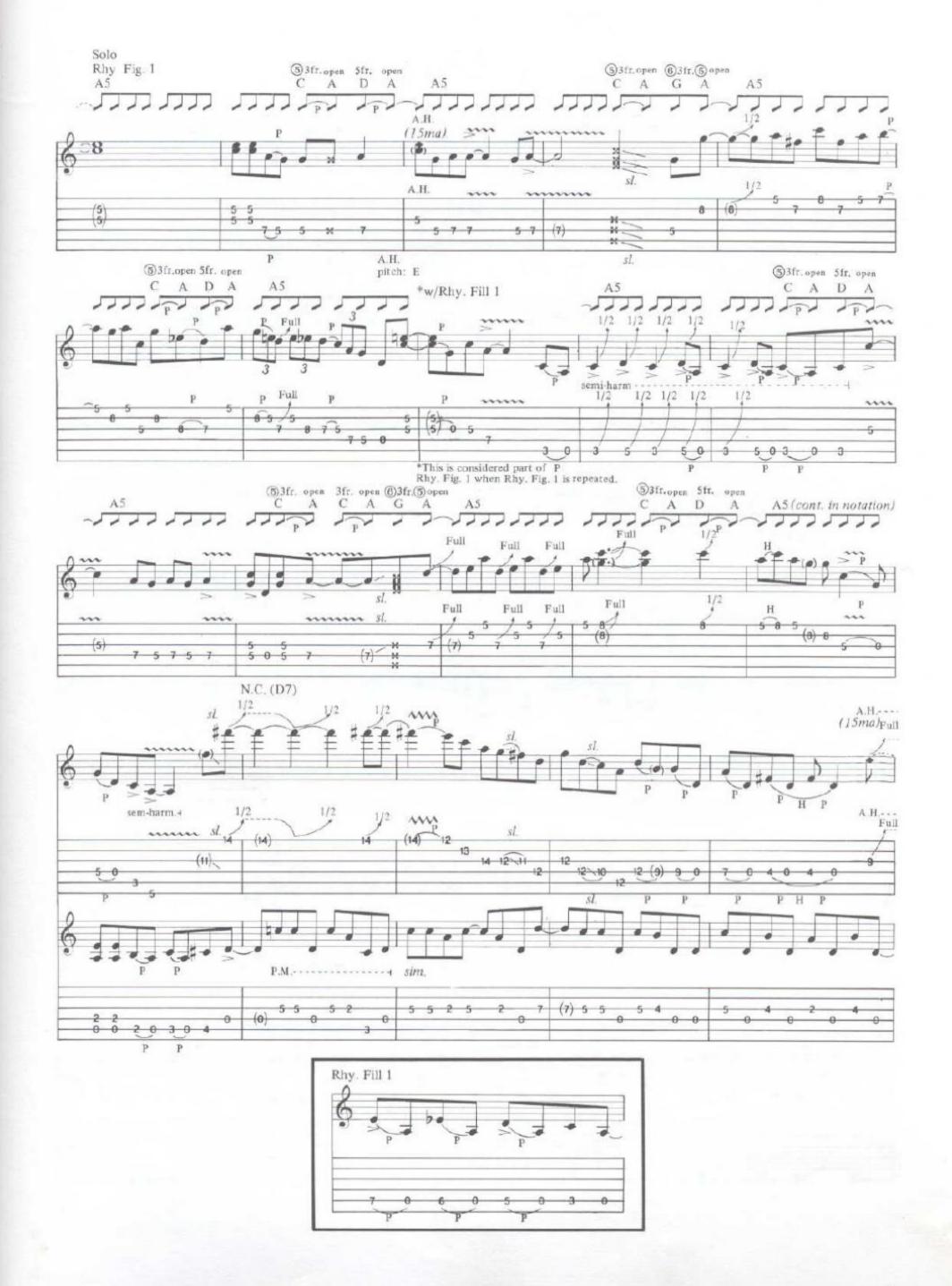
# HILL OF THE SKULL

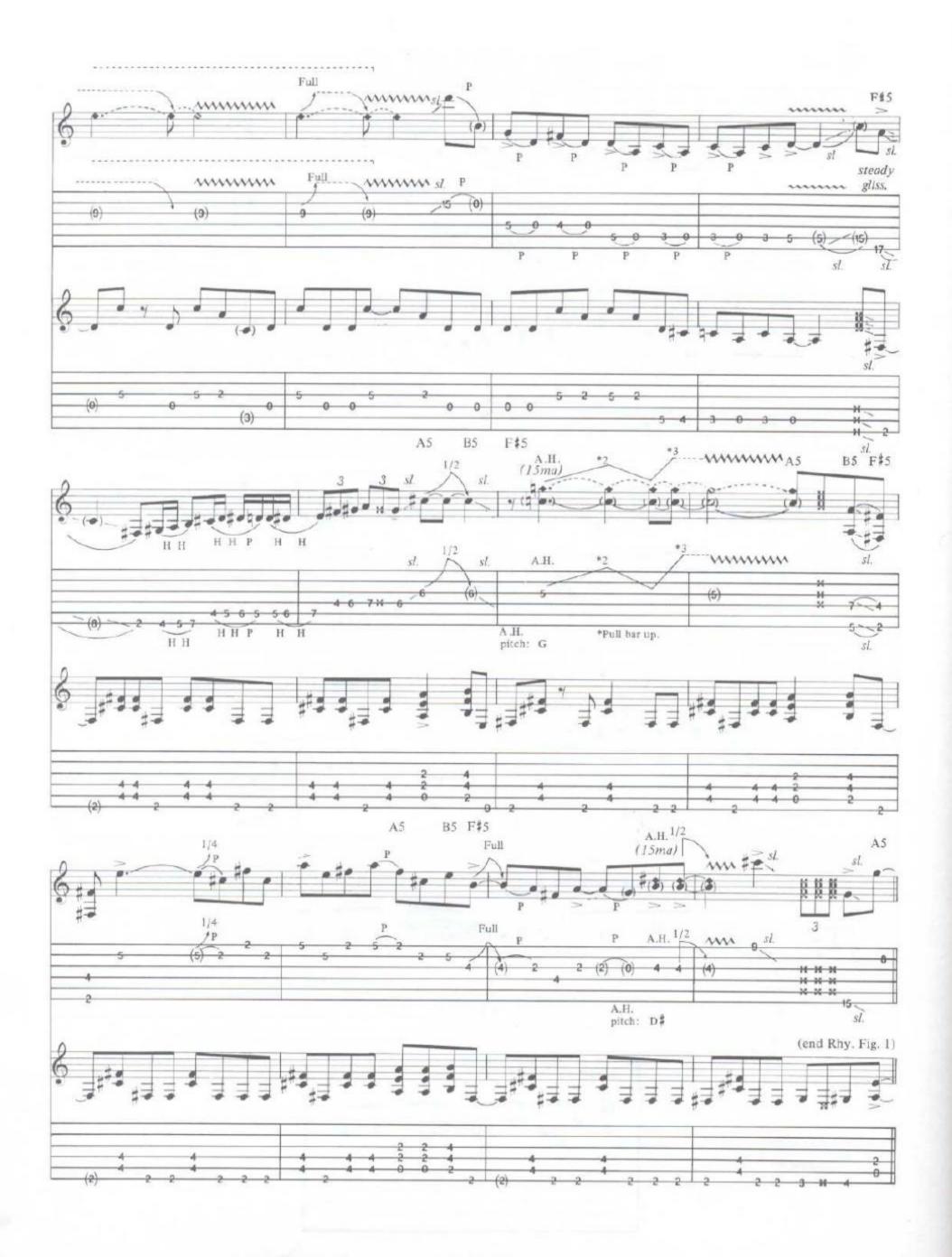




## SATCH BOOGIE







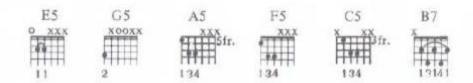








## CIRCLES





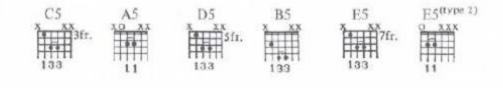








### LORDS OF KARMA







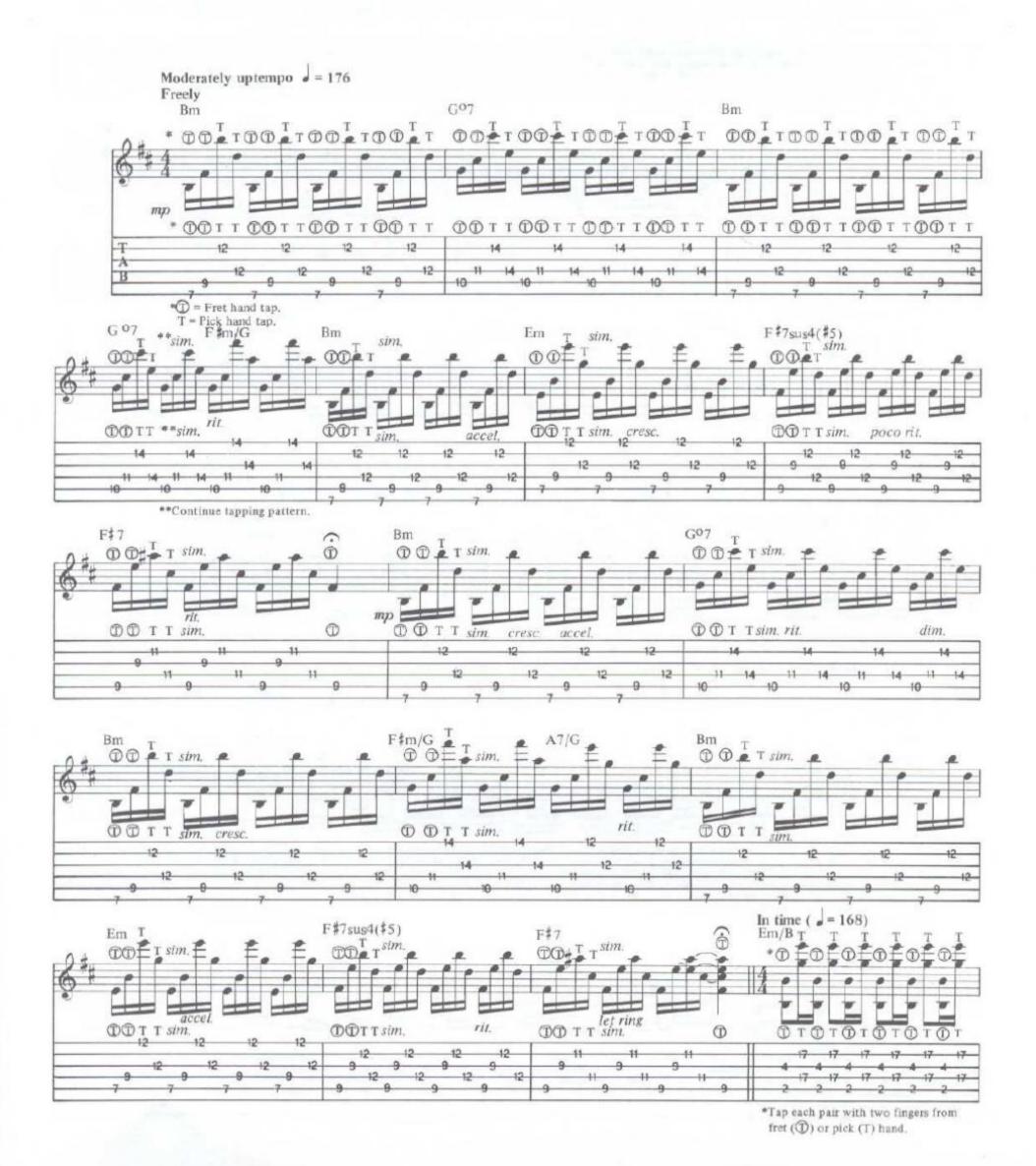


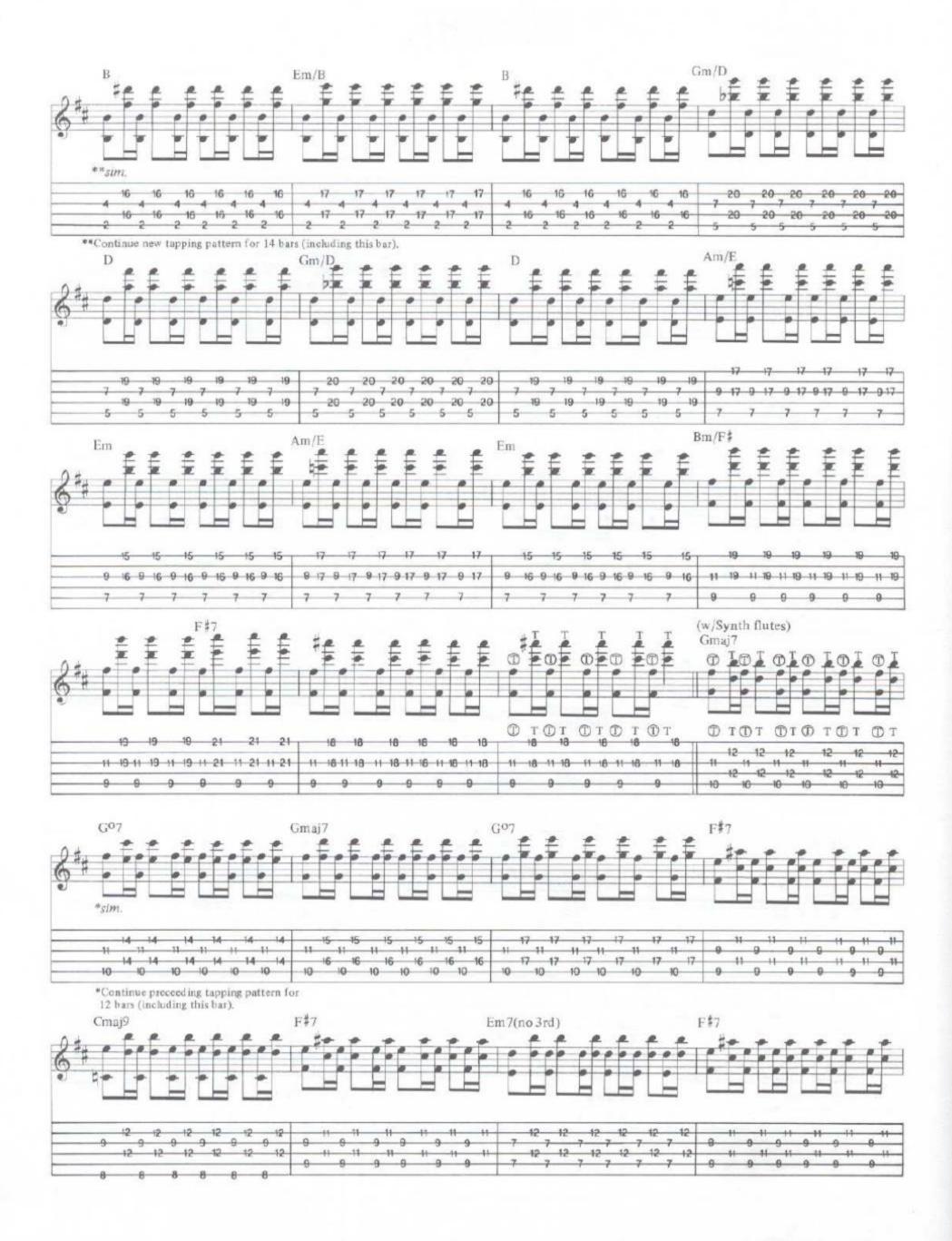


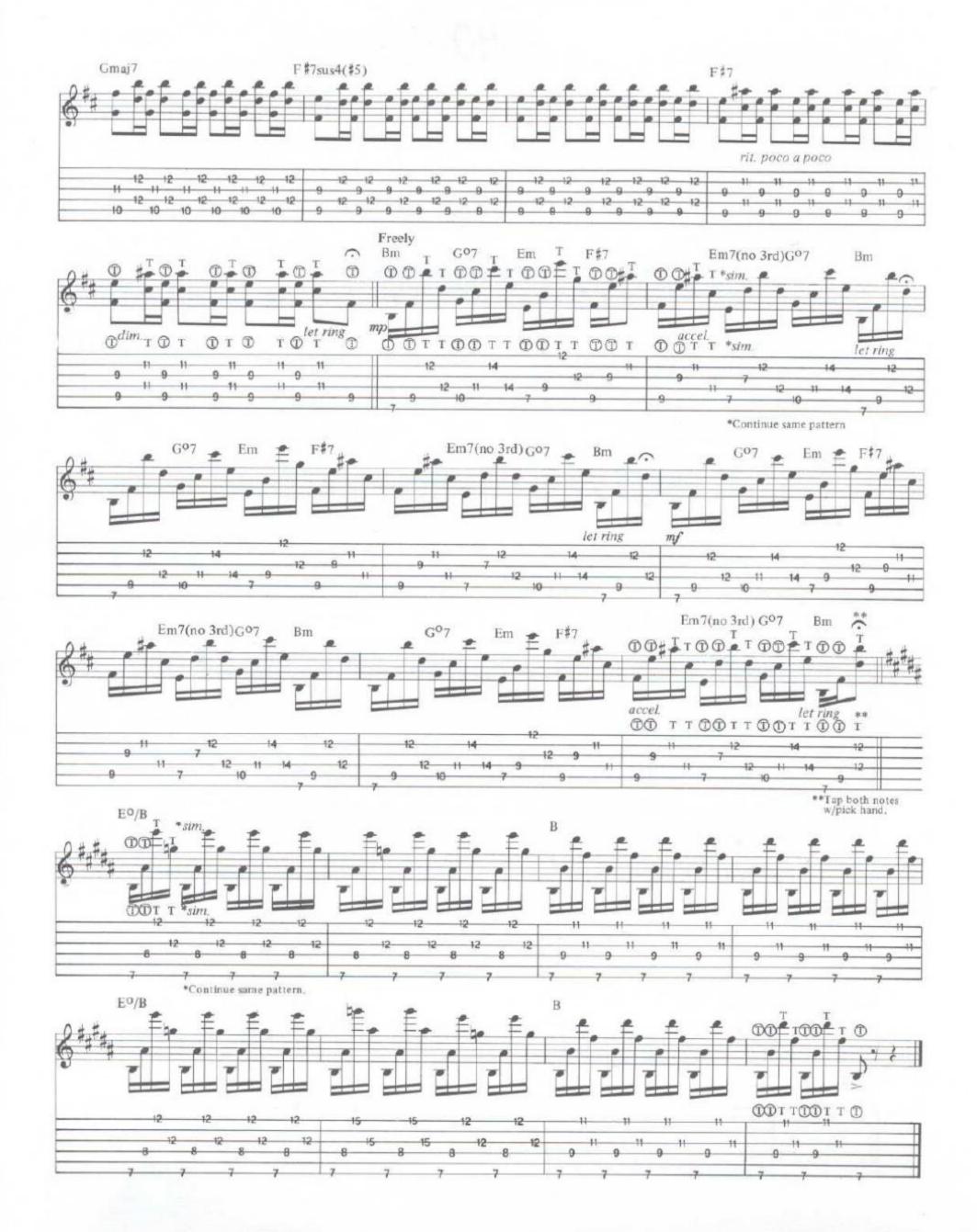
































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